



August 24, 2006

Chairman Tom Coburn
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management
439 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coburn,

We are pleased to respond to your inquiry of July 27, 2006 regarding federal appropriations. As Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management you have a heavy responsibility to oversee the use of federal funds. We commend your interest and diligence.

As you note in your letter, as a large, competitive research university, the University of Utah plays a significant and important role in contributing to a changing and expanding body of knowledge. We have a legacy of groundbreaking discoveries that have lead to life saving treatments and cures, new commercial products, startup companies, and high-salaried jobs. Further, University of Utah research attracts better-educated people to the state and increases the vitality of the community. In the research endeavor, the federal government is an essential partner.

The University of Utah is the flagship university in the state. Many departments in all the colleges are nationally acclaimed as evidenced by more top 20 rankings than top 100s. We are classified as a Research I University, a ranking attained by only 2 percent of colleges and universities in the country. Some 99 percent of our faculty hold the highest academic degrees in their disciplines. Students are drawn to the University of Utah from around the world for the opportunity to study with notable teacher-researchers in their field.

Given our position as a leading research university, our faculty have received numerous federal grants, contracts and awards over the past six years. Because your letter was received during the summer break, when we are not at full strength and busy preparing for the start of the new academic year, the September 1 deadline is not practical. We appreciate the spirit in which you have requested information and will respond by September 29, 2006. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Kim Wirthlin

Cc: Michael K. Young, President, University of Utah
Raymond F. Gesteland, Vice President for Research

Kim Wirthlin
Vice President for Government Relations
201 Presidents Circle, Room 201
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
(801) 585-3159